

California State Journal of Medicine.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

All Scientific Papers submitted for Publication must be Typewritten.
Notify the office promptly of any change of address, in order that mailing list and addresses in the Register may be corrected.

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NOTICE

The next meeting of the State Society will be held in San Francisco, April 17th to 19th, 1906; the Rocky Mountain and Inter-State Medical Society will meet with us at that time; clinics will be arranged for the 16th, 20th and 21st, so that the sessions will, practically, occupy the entire week. Three major symposia have been selected by the Program Committee: Anesthesia, Lungs (not including tuberculosis), and Stomach. A few volunteer papers in these symposia will be accepted by the Committee, provided that members desiring to present them will notify the Committee BEFORE JANUARY 1ST.

Members desiring to present papers in the sections, or at the general meetings, are requested to send in their names and the titles of papers as early as possible.

No contributor will be given place on the program unless the title and an abstract of his paper shall be received BEFORE MARCH 1ST, 1906.

The Chairman of the Committee is Dr. Harold Brunn, 1312 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The exposures made by *Collier's* in its issue for November 4th, are astounding. It is shown, through the reproduction of letters, telegrams, contracts, etc., **COLLIER'S WEEKLY.** that every newspaper in the country is implicated in the alcoholic nostrum fraud; that our own newspapers are not only bound to silence when the question of nostrums comes along, but that they are forced to do the lobbying for the greatest fraud in the world—the American “patent medicine.” From extracts from the transac-

tions of the Proprietary Association of America, it is shown just how beautifully these people are organized, and how they crack the whip over the backs of the newspapers and our legislators. The article is too long to reprint, and abstracts from it would give but a poor idea of the actual degradation of our vaunted “free” press. Free? There never were such slaves since the world began! Every physician in the country should give his hearty support to *Collier's Weekly*, and everyone of us should read the article referred to. There is no doubt in the world that the disgruntled nostrum manufacturers who “work” the medical profession, and who have throttled its medical publications just as effectively as the “patent” medicine men have throttled the newspapers, will join hands with the Proprietary Association in its attacks upon the American Medical Association and upon the medical profession generally. Already they have established a news bureau for the purpose of preparing articles attacking the medical profession, and having them published by their slaves—the newspapers. In our own profession we will have no help except from the *Journal A. M. A.* and the State journals, for practically all the others are owned by the nostrum men who advertise in them. Such leaders as the *Medical Record* (too dignified to pay any attention to its advertising pages) and the *New York Medical Journal* (which openly sides with the nostrum men and has offered its pages to them to express their views on their right to befool the medical profession and the public) will not help us in the fight one whit; indeed, we may consider ourselves fortunate if they do not join with the newspaper slaves and attack us. Learn the facts and then help to spread the news among your patients and your friends. Only in this way can they be placed before the people, for the newspapers have sold themselves for a price, paid in homes ruined and graves filled, that would turn the stomach of an honest man.

Why do the various State Legislatures enact laws regulating the practice of medicine? If one seriously asks himself this question and studiously searches **MEDICAL LAWS.** for the answer, he will find that it is mainly to protect the public against ignorance and incompetence by providing for a minimum amount of educational and scientific equipment which must be possessed by those who will treat the sick or injured. A properly constructed and administered medical law should make it very easy for the well-equipped physician to become licensed, while rendering it practically impossible for the ignorant or incompetent to prey upon the sick. Nothing else is contemplated or desired, and nothing else should ever be allowed to creep into a medical law or the